

# The Last Week Of Jesus' Life - The Destruction of Jerusalem - Matthew 24:1-35

Sunday PM 05/26/19

## Introduction:

There are things the Bible says but is rejected because the message is unpopular. There are things the Bible does not say but people believe because it is popular. This is one of those passages a lot of folks have said a lot about but it is not what the Bible actually says. We want to look at *Matthew 24.1-35* and see what Jesus said and what he was talking about.

Jesus ended *Matthew 23* with a pronouncement, *verses 38-39*. Never again would Jesus enter the temple, *Matthew 24.1*.

- a. His judgment on the temple, *Matthew 24.2; Mark 13.1*.
  - b. Jesus had spoken of a time when worship would not be confined to Jerusalem, *John 4.23*.
  - c. The temple would no longer be physical but spiritual in nature.
  - d. Key verses: *6*. "but the end is not yet," *15*. "therefore," *29* "immediately," *34* "this generation will by no means pass away till all these things are fulfilled."
- I) **Two Questions, *verse 3; Luke 21.7; Mark 13.4***
- A) **When will this happen? And what will be the sign"**
  - B) **Two questions and two different events.**
    1. The destruction of Jerusalem.
    2. The coming of the Christ and the end of the age or world.

3. They equated both events happening at the same time.

**II) Misleading Signs (These Events Would Happen But Not Connected to The Destruction of Jerusalem), *verses 4- 13***

**A) False Messiahs, *verse 5. See Acts 5.36-37***

**B) Wars, Famines, Pestilence, and Earthquakes, *verses 6-7***

1. Four emperors were killed in 18 months. In Seleucia 50,000 Jews were killed. In Caesarea a battle between Syrians and Jews caused 20,000 Jews to be killed.
2. Earthquakes in Crete, Smyrna, Miletus, Chios, Laodica, Colosse, Rome, Judea, etc.

**C) It was not the end but just the beginning, *verse 8***

**D) Persecution of the church, *verses 9- 10***

1. Families would be divided, mothers against daughters, fathers against sons, etc.

**E) Brethren would betray the cause of Christ. *Vv. 11-12; 2 Timothy 4.10,16***

**F) False prophets, *verse 11***

1. Recorded in *2 Peter 2.1; 1 John 4.1*

**III) Words Of Encouragement, *verses 13-14***

**A) The promise of salvation to those that are faithful, *Rev. 2.10***

1. Could have been referring to physical escape and spiritual salvation. Josephus says not one Christian was known to have died in Jerusalem.

2. The gospel would be preached in all the world before the destruction of Jerusalem, *Col. 1.23*;  
*Rom. 1.8*

#### IV) The Signs Of The Destruction

##### A) **Verses 15-16**

1. Abomination of desolation, *Luke 21.20-21*
2. The Roman army carried signs of eagles and images of Emperors (Idolatry)
3. Time to leave Judea. (Why run if this is in reference to the end of the world?)

##### B) **Verses 17-22**

1. Get out quickly and hope the conditions for travel are good.
2. Sabbath Day - the gates may be closed or Jews may hinder people from leaving the city.
3. Great Tribulation - Jerusalem would suffer greatly.
  - a. Much of the pain was self inflicted. They robbed, tortured, and killed each other.
  - b. They destroyed much of their own food. Then killed each other for food. Case of a woman cooking and eating her own baby.
  - c. Those that wanted to defect were tortured and killed.
  - d. Those that did escaped were captured and cut open to see if they had swallowed gold.
4. The Roman army once inside of Jerusalem killed over 1 million Jews.

5. The temple caught on fire. Soldiers pulled apart the bricks to recover the melted gold.
6. *Verse 22* the city fell rather quickly.

**V) During this time, verses 23-28**

**A) False Christ - when Christ does come it will be universally known.**

1. Stars, sun and moon would be darkened, O.T. apocalyptic language.
  - a. Destruction of Babylon, *Isaiah 13.1, 10.*
2. Depicting the judgment of God, when the Jewish nation would end, *Acts 2.16ff*
  - a. Figurative language can not be interpreted literally.

**B) *Verse 30***

1. The Son of Man in heaven locates the Son of man, not the place of the sign.
2. The sign was the Roman Army coming and then the destruction of Jerusalem.

**C) *Verse 31* Was fulfilled by the preaching of the gospel, *Luke 4.17-21***

1. The elect are those who receive the gospel, *2 Thess. 2.13-14; 2 Peter 1.10*
  - a. Angels used in some passages referring to heavenly beings, in other passages translated as messengers,
  - b. Jesus gave His disciples the great commission, *Matthew 28.18ff.*

2. Winds, refers to all the earth, or all nations.

**VI) Conclusion, *verse 32- 35***

**A) Parable of the fig tree**

1. "All these things" - everything from *verse 2* on.
2. The events would warn them of the destruction of Jerusalem.

**b. "This generation" leaves no doubt it would occur during the average life span of those people.**

**c. The guarantee - Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 AD.**